



THE LAST
DYING SPEECH, and CONFESSION,
Birth, Parentage, and Education,
Life, Character, & Behaviour,
Of the
MALEFACTORS,
Executed this Day at Tyburn.

W Ednesday the report was made to his Majesty of the convicts under sentence of death in Newgate, when Booker, Woods, Fitzgerald, Johnson, Lawson, and Cope, were ordered for execution.

John Booker was convicted of feloniously stealing, on Friday the 22d of November last, two gold watches, value 25l. the property of Mr. House, watchmaker, No. 5, Great Tower-street.

This unhappy criminal tho' but young was an old offender ; in January 1781 he was under sentence of death for shoplifting, in company with the famous Patrick Madan ; he was then respite, but being lame, thro' having his thigh broke when confined in Newgate some years ago, he could not be made serviceable abroad, and was therefore sentenced to hard labour in Clerkenwell bridewell ; when the prisoners (to the amount of 30) seized upon the keepers, took the keys, and let themselves out, he was one of the number that escaped ; having thus got his liberty, he made such bad use of it, as to return to his former evil courses, and committed the crime for which he suffered : he was but a youth at the time he suffered, tho' old in iniquity.

Wm. Wood and John Fitzgerald, were convicted for robbing Thomas Mumford, turnkey of Clerkenwell bridewell, of 1s. and two sixpences : these unhappy malefactors were confined in the above prison as vagrants, when they came up to the turnkey, clapt a pistol to his breast, and took the keys of the gaol and his money from him, setting at liberty upwards of 30 persons confined there : they were soon after re-taken, tried for the robbery, and cast for death : since the warrant for their execution they have behaved every way suitable to their miserable situation.

John Johnson and John Lawson were cast for high treason : the city marshals having received information of them, repaired to their house, and caught them counterfeiting the silver coin of this realm called shillings : the fact being proved so positively they were both declared by the jury, Guilty ; and it being a crime so hurtful to society, were both ordered for execution.

Thomas Cope was also found guilty of treason, in counterfeiting the silver coin of this realm : he was found with all the implements proper for that baneful business, but said he came there by accident ; however, the jury gave no belief to his defence, and therefore found him Guilty. This prisoner, was near 60 years of age, and ought to have made use of the knowledge acquired by many years experience in giving good counsel to others.

Since the death warrant came down, they have behaved every way becoming their dreadful situation, and on Tuesday they took an affecting farewell of their friends, spending the night before their deaths in prayer and singing of psalms, proper for the occasion.

The morning of execution they were conveyed to Tyburn, where they suffered pursuant to their sentence. Cope sent the following letter to his Wife :

" My dear Mary, Newgate Cells, 12 o'clock.
From the brink of the grave near which I stand, your unfortunate husband now writes to you his last letter. To assure you of my love would be useless, as you have had many proofs of it. Since we parted my mind is something easier ; I trust and hope we shall meet in heaven, never to part. I have I hope made my peace, and trust to find that mercy in another world, I could not experience in this. Send proper persons to fetch away my body, and get it decently interred. My prayers now call upon me, therefore wishing you happiness in this world, and everlasting happiness in the next, is the dying prayers of your unfortunate,



Tho' unfortunate husband,
T. COPE